

PARKS & RECREATION MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012
6:15 P.M.

The Parks and Recreation Board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 W. 15th Street.

President Sue Otte called the meeting to order. Members present were: Will St. John, Aaron Gurley, Dave Malson, James Zachery and Paul Barada Sr. Also present was Parks Director Danny Mathews, Secretary Carla Sharpe, Attorney Julie Newhouse, Parks Liaison Brad Berkemeier, Mayor Mike Pavey, Tom Jobe of Shady Hills Nursery, several members of the Amphitheater Group and several members of the Ball Diamonds.

Approval of Minutes – Barada moved to approve March 13th as presented. Malson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

Claims Approval – Malson and Zachary reviewed claims for the month. Malson moved to approve minutes. Zachery seconded motion. Minutes approved.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Pavey gave an update on the vandalism in the park. He stated they are starting to take care of the situation and it seems to be pretty effective. They are identifying the problems in North and South Veterans Memorial Parks. They have changed the camera locations. Kids are witnessing other kid's destructions. We are now getting prosecuting images. Had success in Willkie Park as we have identified vandals. This is all just an unfortunate situation. We hate to spend tax payer money fixing items in the park.

Parks Director's Report – Mathews stated the Easter Egg Hunt went well. Parks Department handed out bunny rabbits. They were appreciated by all. Mowing at this time. Just trying to keep up. Bought a new mower out of Non-Reverting. They started draining the pool today. The Fire Department will pressure wash and then they will start filling back up with water. They are getting pumps started and getting things operational.

Reports from Other Committees and Boards –

Rita Kaster – Swimming Pool Update – Mathews reported Kaster is in school but has done interviews and will have list of employees for next meeting.

James Zachery – Report on Partners for a Healthy Rush County – Zachery stated he attended another meeting. They are working on maps of trails. The Rotary is doing a 5 K Walk in May. The Community Day will be in May. They are encouraging people to walk and use the trails. They have started a Walking Club. Seven people showed up for that. This club will give you a partner to walk with. Healthy Rush County meets again next Tuesday. Is a great group that promotes a Healthier Rush County.

Unfinished Business:

Tom Jobe – Shady Hills Nursery – Ball Diamond Request – Mr. Jobe shared with the group they will be taking care of four ball fields. The three Baseball/Softball fields and the one designated just for Softball. They will put on the applications, take care of weed control, do the mowing inside the fence, clean up, trash pickup, inside the fence, and trimming inside the ball fields. They are doing this for sponsorship. He has already sprayed the outfield and provided roundup spray under the bleachers and dug outs at no charge. The ball diamonds are providing fuel costs.

Aaron Gurley – Discuss Parks Patrol – Gurley shared with the group that there has been an article in the newspaper. The deadline is up and they have received seven applicants for Parks Patrol. They have run criminal background checks. All seem to be enthused. This is moving in the right direction and moving forward.

They are now ready to begin the training regimen. They will also be administering:

- 1) Verbal Judo – Tactical Communication Style
- 2) Autism Awareness
- 3) How to Deal with Intoxicated Persons
- 4) Drug Recognition Training
- 5) Communications – Providing Accurate Physical Descriptions
- 6) Overview of Pertinent Ordinances

Sharpe will email everyone when the training is to start.

Gurley said there will be \$25 fines for those who get into trouble.

Park & Recreation Minutes 4-10-12
Page Two

Malson questioned the ordinance fines. Sharpe and Newhouse will check on ordinance fines and make sure that is a written ordinance.

Aaron Gurley – Sunken Garden – Gurley stated they have viewed the situation. They have checked on the historical value and have been told there is no historical value to the hole. The Historical Society did not have a problem with us filing in the hole.

Gurley said he thinks we should fill in the sunken garden due to it being a liability and an eyesore.

Malson stated a lot of little kids play there and we would have to find them another area to play.

Gurley said he would much rather fill in the hole than see someone get hurt.

Malson stated that's what we have insurance for. He feels that more than a few kids play in the hole/sunken garden and that kids have been doing that for years.

Gurley said we need to put this to a vote and asked the board if we want to fill in the hole/sunken garden or not.

Gurley made a motion to fill in the hold/sunken garden. Zachery seconded motion with Malson opposing.

Barada asked if we could put ramps someplace else. Gurley said he has been asked for a new skate park. Gurley asked why put in another skate park and let the kids damage it again.

Otte said this is something we can talk about another time.

Gurley said he personally don't think skateboards should be allowed on trails either.

Barada said kids skate board, where we don't want them to, on a daily basis.

Malson said bigger kids are the problem.

Mathews said he is looking for suggestions.

Malson, Gurley and Zachery will put their heads together for ideas of what can be done.

Ball Lease Agreements – Pete McCorkle stated he was waiting on two organizations to get sanctioned to get liability insurance. This is the cheapest route to take.

They hope to get sanctioned and insured and to date they have 240 girls signed up and 22 teams.

Mathews showed McCorkle a drawing for a catch basin and a drain which would drain water into Hodges Branch that the Street Department is working on that at a cost of \$1,500.

McCorkle said he would like to gravel the area off and put post up to keep cars out.

Zachery said he would like to cut off all traffic during games. He suggested blocking off Alonzo Drive, blocking off the Boy's Concession stand and blocking off the area by the girls diamond.

St. John said he also thinks we should block off parking on the north end.

Zachery said that by blocking off this area, kids can walk back and forth to restrooms and diamonds without having a chance to get hit.

T-Ball Coach Ruby Welter said she feels they need to create a drop off zone.

Zachery said people could walk a few extra feet to save a kids life.

McCorkle then asked for approval to have a dance on the ball field to raise money to re- do a diamond.

They would like to do this May 12th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Barada moved to approve a dance to be held on the diamond on May 12th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Gurley seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Amphitheater Group – Amphitheater Report – Amphitheater Group President Cain Grocox reported:

2012 Amphitheater Concert Series

Saturday, May 19th – Community Picnic – Kids Games – Silent Auction

Saturday, June 9th – ZOSO (Led Zeppelin Tribute) - Headliner
The Last Good Year - Opener

Saturday, June 23rd – Free Fallin (Tom Petty Salute) - Headliner
Zeke and the Geeks – Opener

Saturday, July 14th – “Shades of Blue” - Off the Wagon – Co-Headliner
Cee Cee James – Co-Headliner

Saturday, July 21st – John Waite – Headliner
Monofiction - Opener

Saturday, August 4th – Young Dubliners (Irish) - Headliner
Amish Open Mic Band – Opener

Park & Recreation Minutes 4-10-12
Page Three

Saturday, August 25th - An Innocent Band (Billy Joel Tribute) – Headliner
Rob Dixon & Triology in an Indy Jazz Fest affiliated event

Reported to date they have raised \$50,943.33 with \$18,300.00 of that being “In Kind” Sponsorship. Our concert series total budget is \$35,750.00 which we still need to raise \$3,106.67.

Sponsorship packages are available from \$5,000 to \$500. We also have “Friend of the Park” Sponsorship packages from \$100.00 to \$25.00. Make arrangements with Carla Sharpe for sponsorships.

This year our Riverside Park Amphitheater is partnering with Toy’s-4-Tots, The Rush County United Fund, The Rushville Food Pantry, Changing Foot Prints, City of Rushville Animal Shelter and Rush County Victims Assistance.

Toy’s-4-Tots will be at the June 23rd Concert and will be raffling off two matching his/her recliners to raise money. Tickets can be purchased from any Amphitheater board member and are one chance for \$1.00, 6 chances for \$5.00 or 12 chances for \$10.00.

Please bring canned food to each concert for the Food Pantry, any good/used shoes for Changing Foot Prints and any dog/cat items for the Animal Shelter.

This year proves to be bigger and better with our three tribute bands. We are excited for the season to start and hope to see each and every one of you at a concert.

Flow Chart – Use of Shelters – Otte stated the Amphitheater and Shelter rental requests are brought to the board more times than need be. She feels rentals should be brought before the Parks Director who can use his own discretion. She has put together a flow chart as to the process she feels should go on, who pays a fee and who don’t. She would like to put together a committee consisting of herself, St. John, the Mayor and a City Council member to create the flow chart.

Malson stated he feels the Parks board should be able to set out specific guidelines who we will charge and who not to charge a fee.

Otte stated she feels the Parks Director should make the decisions.

Malson stated we just need to put something in black and white and approve it, that way it will be easier on the Parks Director and the board.

Items not known in advance:

Tosha Balistrre was present because her son was stopped and approached for vandalism for breaking a swing in the park. Her son, Nick, is not allowed to be in any parks.

She stated another kid did the vandalism. There was a group of boys in the park that day. It was not just her son. No charges have been or will be filed.

She was present to ask for permission for her son to be allowed to go back into the parks since he did not do the damage.

Gurley stated he has talked to the Prosecutors Office. He received a statement from Kristy Marshall and they have decided not to pursue charges on Nick for vandalism.

Mrs. Balistrre stated her son was wrongfully accused.

Gurley stated he has talked to Chief Tucker and it is his full belief that Nick should not be allowed back in the park. They have individuals who said Nick did break the swing. In the Police Report Nick stated he leaned back on the swing because someone was going to hit him.

Gurley stated if not setting in the swing properly, they will break.

Gurley stated he feels if Nick is allowed back in the parks the following should apply:

- 1) Pay for the swing damages
- 2) Do Community Service
- 3) Can’t come in any parks

Mrs. Balistrre stated her son is in town 2 days a week. She doesn’t feel she should have to pay for the swing.

Gurley stated the broken swing was a memorial swing.

Malson stated he feels we should wait and hear from the Police Department on this, then make an intelligent decision. He suggested inviting the Police to next month are meeting.

Mrs. Balistrre stated that means her son will have to go another month without being in the parks but the other kids are still in the parks that did the vandalism.

The arresting officer, being Officer Alex Shaver, told Mrs. Balistrre she had to come to the Parks Board meeting so she took off work for this and now her son has to wait another month to go back into the parks.

Park & Recreation Minutes 4-10-12
Page Four

Again, Malson suggested inviting the Police to the next meeting or suggested she talk to Officer Tucker and if he gives permission for Nick to go back in the parks to let Sharpe know who will in turn let the board know.
Malson stated if we don't hear from Sharpe we will know this will be on the agenda for next month.

Barada asked about the lights for the City Signs.
Mathews stated the lights have been ordered.
Mathews stated they will put one up and make sure it is what we are wanting.
Barada will have a lighting party when complete!

T-Ball Representative Ruby Welter was present with a request. He has a little 6 year old boy on her team in a wheel chair. She handed out what she would like to see done.
Goal: Enhance the lives of our handicap individuals with access to our public park restrooms men's/women's and the T-Ball diamond.
Location: The west end park (Hannah & Mauzy Addition Lots 1-20)
Timeline: To start immediately and to be completed before opening Jamboree April 28th.
#1 Pour a concrete handicap ramp. Ramp will start from ground, inside diamond and incline to dugout height then follow through to the road as a continuing sidewalk. (access path to restroom) First base dugout only.
#2 Behind first base dugout request two handicap accessible parking spots. Signs maybe attached to dugout if needed.
#3 Community bathroom: sidewalk from roadway to bathroom men's/women's, then an inclining ramp to meet already existing foundation with enough room to open door.
#4 Two horizontal handrails installed beside urinal for easy access from wheelchair. Handrails are already installed inside stalls in both restrooms.
#5 A small ramp on women's side is to extend out east of the building to prevent falling off the steep step that currently exists.
#6 Two or three handicap parking spots located directly in front of community bathroom. Sidewalks currently in front of area.
Supervisor: Ruby Welter Vice President Rush County T-Ball.
Funding: ARC (associated retired citizens) and Rush County T-Ball League. She has been told by Cindy Sickbert they can get around \$800. The T-Ball League will pitch in and work together and what ARC doesn't pay they will pick up. She feels this is a nice thing for handicap youth and grandparents and is something that would be permanent.
Estimates Requested From: Gener Stanley and Stanley Paving \$1,200 (have worked for city in past on access to parks) Aaron Gilliam, private contractor (have worked for T-Ball before rebuilding dugouts and bleachers) \$3,460.00
St. John stated he would like to see guidelines on ADA standards.
Welter stated Stanley has ADA guidelines.
Mathews stated he thinks it's a great idea to make area handicap assessable.
Malson made a motion to authorize Mathews to supervise, make sure this meets all ADA requirements.
Barada seconded motion. Motion carried.

Welter then requested two handicap parking spots by the building.
Newhouse stated the Council would have to approve this request and the Street Department put them in.
She suggested working with the Police Department on parking spaces.

There being no further business, Barada moved to adjourn the meeting. Malson seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

SUE OTTE, PRESIDENT

PAUL BARADA SR., VICE PRESIDENT

DAVE MALSON, MEMBER

WILL ST. JOHN, MEMBER

AARON GURLEY, MEMBER

JAMES ZACHERY, MEMBER

ATTEST:

CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY